



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

eFILED

4/4/2022 3:11:37 PM

Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY: Health

TITLE-SERIES: 64-43

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: FOOD MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16-1-4 and 16-7-1

The above rule has been authorized by the West Virginia Legislature.

Authorization is cited in (house or senate bill number) 4126

Section 64-5-1(d) Passed On 3/3/2022 12:00:00 AM

This rule is filed with the Secretary of State. This rule becomes effective on the following date:

May 31, 2022

This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect from the following date:

August 01, 2027

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

April L Robertson -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

**TITLE 64
LEGISLATIVE RULE
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

**SERIES 43
FOOD MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**

§64-43-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule establishes the minimum requirements for the design, construction, management, and operation of food manufacturing facilities.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §16-1-4 and §16-7-1.

1.3. Filing Date. -- April 4, 2022.

1.4. Effective Date. -- May 31, 2022.

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on upon August 1, 2027.

1.6. Applicability. -- This rule applies to the owners and operators of food manufacturing facilities engaged in wholesale operations. Food manufacturing facilities under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture are not subject to this rule.

1.7. Enforcement. -- This rule is enforced by the commissioner of the bureau for public health.

§64-43-2. Definitions.

2.1. Acidified foods. -- Low-acid foods to which acid(s) or acid food(s) are added. These foods include, but are not limited to, beans, cucumbers, cabbage, artichokes, cauliflower, puddings, peppers, tropical fruits, and fish, singly or in any combination. They have a water activity (aw) greater than 0.85 and have a finished equilibrium pH of 4.6 or below. These foods may be called, or may purport to be, "pickles" or "pickled." Carbonated beverages, jams, jellies, preserves, acid foods (including such foods as standardized and non-standardized food dressings and condiment sauces) that contain small amounts of low-acid food(s) and have a resultant finished equilibrium pH that does not significantly differ from that of the predominant acid or acid food, foods that are stored, distributed, and retailed under refrigeration, and fermented are excluded.

2.2. Better process control school. -- A course recognized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to meet the requirements of 21 CFR 113.10 and 21 CFR 114.10.

2.3. Commissioner. -- Commissioner of the bureau for public health or his or her designee.

2.4. Food Manufacturing Facility. -- Any person that manufactures, processes, or packs food for human consumption and conducts wholesale operations. This term does not include: farms, facilities

regulated by legislative rule 64CSR17, "Food Establishments," and facilities under the regulatory authority of the West Virginia department of agriculture.

2.5. Low-acid foods. -- Any foods, other than alcoholic beverages, with a finished equilibrium pH greater than 4.6 and a water activity (aw) greater than 0.85. Tomatoes and tomato products having a finished equilibrium pH less than 4.7 are not classed as low-acid foods.

2.6. Permit. -- A document issued by the commissioner to operate a food manufacturing facility.

2.7. Person. -- Individual, partnership, association, syndicate, company, firm, trust, corporation, government corporation, institution, department, division, bureau, agency, or any entity recognized by law.

2.8. Preventative controls qualified individual. -- An individual who has successfully completed training in the development and application of risk-based preventive controls at least equivalent to that received under a standard curriculum recognized as adequate by the food and drug administration or is otherwise qualified through job experience to develop and apply a food safety system.

2.9. Processing Authority. -- A person who has been recognized by the association of food and drug officials as having expert knowledge of thermal processing requirements for low-acid foods packaged in hermetically-sealed containers or has expert knowledge in the acidification and processing of acidified foods and is found in the food processing authorities directory at: <https://www.afdo.org/directories/fpa/>.

2.10. Very small business. -- A business (including any subsidiaries and affiliates) averaging less than \$1,000,000 per year, adjusted for inflation, during the three-year period preceding the applicable calendar year in sales of human food plus the market value of human food manufactured, processed, packed, or held without sale.

2.11. Wholesale. -- The sale or distribution of food to other business entities such as, but not limited to, retail stores, other food manufacturers, or food establishments.

§64-43-3. Incorporation by Reference of the Federal Code of Regulations.

3.1. The following portions of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended October 6, 2021, are incorporated by reference:

3.1.1. 21 CFR 117, current good manufacturing practice, hazard analysis, and risk based preventive controls for human food with the following exceptions:

3.1.1.a. 21 CFR 117.5;

3.1.1.b. 21 CFR 117.7;

3.1.1.c. 21 CFR 117.8; and

3.1.1.d. 21 CFR 117, Subparts C and G shall not apply to facilities defined as a very small business, which shall comply with the requirements set forth in 21 CFR 117, Subpart D.

3.1.2. 21 CFR 113, thermally processed low acid foods packaged in hermetically sealed containers; and

3.1.3. 21 CFR 114, acidified foods.

§64-43-4. General Requirements.

4.1. Whenever a food manufacturing facility is constructed or altered and whenever an existing structure is converted to a food manufacturing facility, plans and specifications for such construction, altering, or conversion shall be submitted to the commissioner for review and approval at least 45 days prior to the date the person intends to engage in business.

4.2. Facilities shall not begin manufacturing, processing, or packing food for human consumption until the facility has obtained or completed:

4.2.1. A permit to operate from the commissioner, as required in section 5 of this rule;

4.2.2. Label approval for all products from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and which complies with food labelling requirements of 21 CFR 101 for products sold in interstate commerce; and

4.2.3. Registration with the FDA under the Public Health Security and Bio-Terrorism and Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. Exemptions shall be determined by the FDA.

4.3. Facilities shall also comply with requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations incorporated by reference in section 3 of this rule regarding processing authority, better process control school, process control qualified individual training, and appropriate food safety training prior to manufacturing, processing, or packing food for human consumption.

4.4. All facilities governed by this rule shall maintain process records, have a written recall procedure, and flow charts of products. These documents shall be readily available to the commissioner.

4.5. If living or sleeping quarters are located on the premises, they shall be separated from rooms and areas used for food manufacturing facilities with complete partitioning and solid self-closing doors.

§64-43-5. Permits.

5.1. No person shall operate a food manufacturing facility within the State of West Virginia who does not possess a valid permit issued by the commissioner.

5.2. An application for a permit to operate a food manufacturing facility shall be made in writing to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner.

5.3. A person shall apply for a permit at least 15 days before the date that the current permit expires or within 45 days of the date before the actual or proposed operation of the facility is to be affected.

5.4. Permits shall not be transferable and shall become invalid upon a change of ownership.

5.5. A permit to operate expires at midnight on the 30th day of June following the date of issuance.

5.6. The commissioner may, without warning, notice, or hearing suspend a permit to operate a food manufacturing facility if the permit holder:

5.6.1. Does not comply with the requirements of this rule or if the operation of the food manufacturing facility constitutes an imminent public health hazard; or

5.6.2. The permit holder has been determined by the commissioner to have obstructed or hindered the commissioner in the proper discharge of his or her duties.

5.7. Operational permits shall be posted within the food manufacturing facility and be readily available to the commissioner.

§64-43-6. Inspections.

The commissioner shall conduct one or more preproduction inspections to verify that a food manufacturing facility is constructed and equipped in accordance with the plans and modifications as approved by the commissioner and shall otherwise conduct as many inspections as necessary to assure compliance with this rule.

§64-43-7. Implementation.

7.1. Food manufacturing facilities in operation at the time this rule becomes effective, and meet Section 3 of this rule, are considered eligible for a permit to operate provided that any construction done after the effective date of this rule is in compliance with this rule.

7.2. New or extensively remodeled food manufacturing facilities whose plans and specifications received written approval from the commissioner prior to the effective date of this rule are eligible for a permit to operate provided that the construction or remodeling is in compliance with the approved plans.

§64-43-8. Fees.

All facilities governed by this rule are subject to the appropriate fees established by 64CSR51.

§64-43-9. Administrative Due Process.

Any person adversely affected by the enforcement of this rule desiring a contested case hearing to determine any rights, duties, interests, or privileges shall do so in the manner prescribed in 64CSR1.

§64-43-10. Penalty for Violating Provisions of Rule.

Any persons violating the provisions of this rule or orders pursuant to this rule is subject to the penalties provided in W. Va. Code §16-1-18 and §16-7-4.